



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CPEC Grants Address Achievement Gap in California Education

SACRAMENTO — October 8, 2008 — The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has awarded over \$5,800,000 in new grants to assist elementary school teachers to address the achievement gap among their students. These grants were awarded to six partnerships of universities and K-12 education agencies statewide (see Attachment 1).

The grants are funded through the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to provide high quality professional development for current teachers. They are awarded to California public and private postsecondary institutions in partnership with high-need school districts. Over 210 grants totaling more than \$110 million have been awarded during the two decades that the Commission has administered the program.

CPEC Executive Director Murray J. Haberman said, “The role of postsecondary institutions in providing intensive, sustained professional development opportunities to K-12 teachers is critical to student success. These grants provide much needed funding for training teachers in challenged elementary schools so they can help their students do better. This is essential for ensuring academic success for English Language Learners and students of racial groups who demonstrate an achievement gap.”

This year’s grant recipients will focus on implementing whole-school approaches for teachers in low-performing elementary schools. All the grants target science or math instruction with specific strategies for English Language Learners. Each grant requires the development of teacher leaders who can sustain the work after the project has ended. The grant recipients will also research the effects of the project on teaching practice, student achievement, and the gaps between student groups.

Commission Chair Olivia K. Singh said, “This year’s focus on science and math is perfectly aligned with the needs of California’s elementary schools, which, in just two short years, need to prepare their students for a new state requirement that all 8th graders take Algebra 1. In addition, science is now tested in elementary schools – making it essential that teachers learn more content and ways to teach it in their classrooms. These grants will be extremely helpful in preparing teachers for these challenges.”

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Grant activities begin this fall and will continue through September, 2012. Further information may be found online at: www.cpec.ca.gov/FederalPrograms/TeacherQuality.asp

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.

***2008 Improving Teacher Quality Grants
California Postsecondary Education Commission***

California State University, Long Beach
School of Education and College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
in partnership with Montebello Unified School District
Project name: Bell Gardens Science Project
Amount: \$945,222

Claremont Graduate University
School of Education and Pitzer College Department of Mathematics
in partnership with Pomona Unified School District
Project name: Making Algebra Accessible Project (MAAP)
Amount: \$935,090

California State University, Chico
School of Education and College of Natural Sciences
in partnership with Gridley Unified School District
Project name: Science and Academic Literacy (SAL)
Amount: \$978,884

California State University, San Bernardino
College of Education and College of Natural Sciences
in partnership with Ontario-Montclair School District
Project name: Algebraic Learning in Elementary Grades: Results, Independence, Achievement (ALEGRIA!)
Amount: \$991,404

University of California, Irvine
School of Education and School of Physical Sciences
in partnership with Compton Unified School District
Project name: Teacher Efficacy Affects Math and Science Success (TEAMS!)
Amount: \$999,494

University of California, Berkeley
Graduate School of Education and School of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Geography
in partnership with Oakland Unified School District
Project name: Advancing Collaboration For Equity In Science (ACES)
Amount: \$960,143